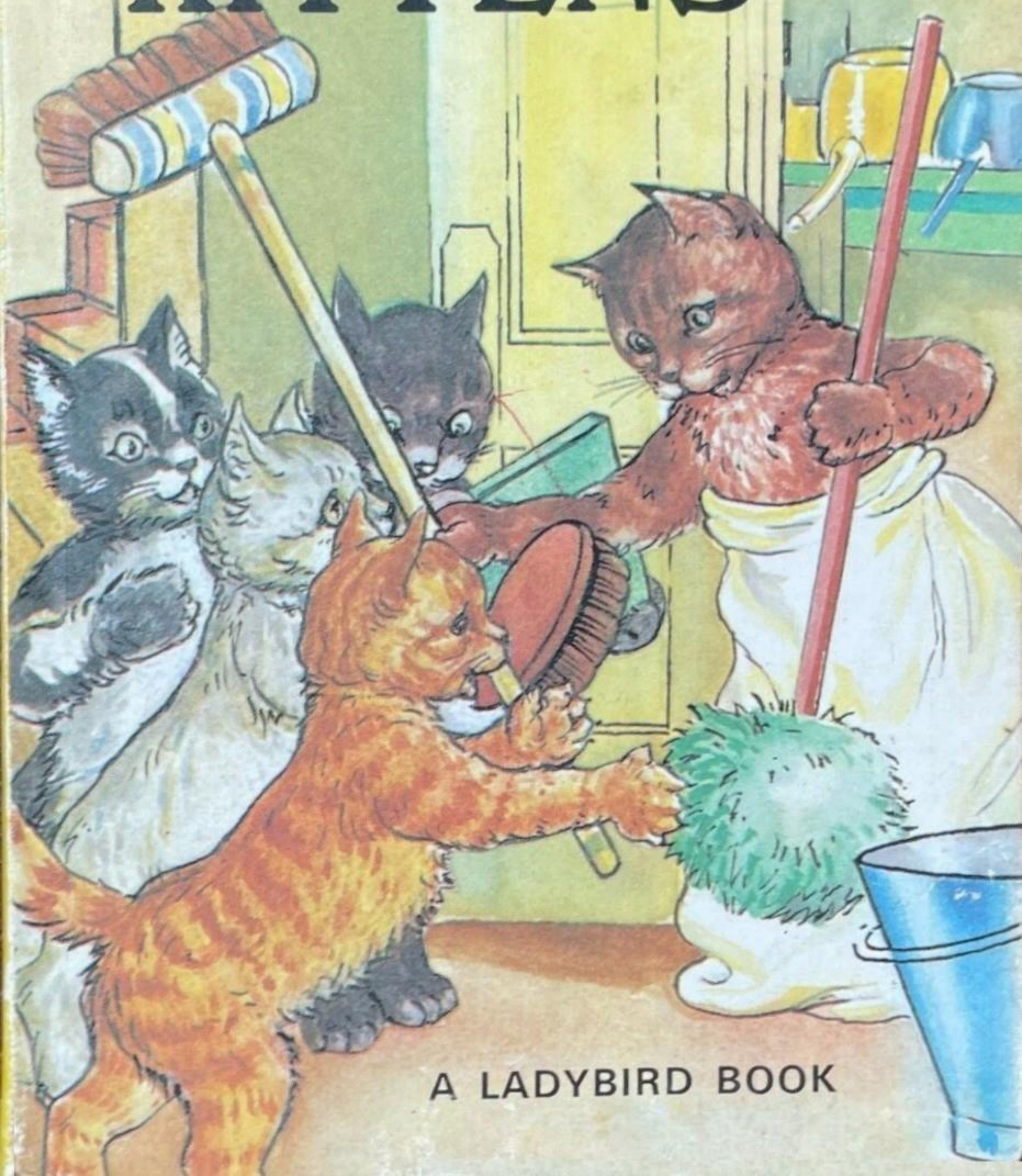


FIVE LITTLE KITTENS



A LADYBIRD BOOK



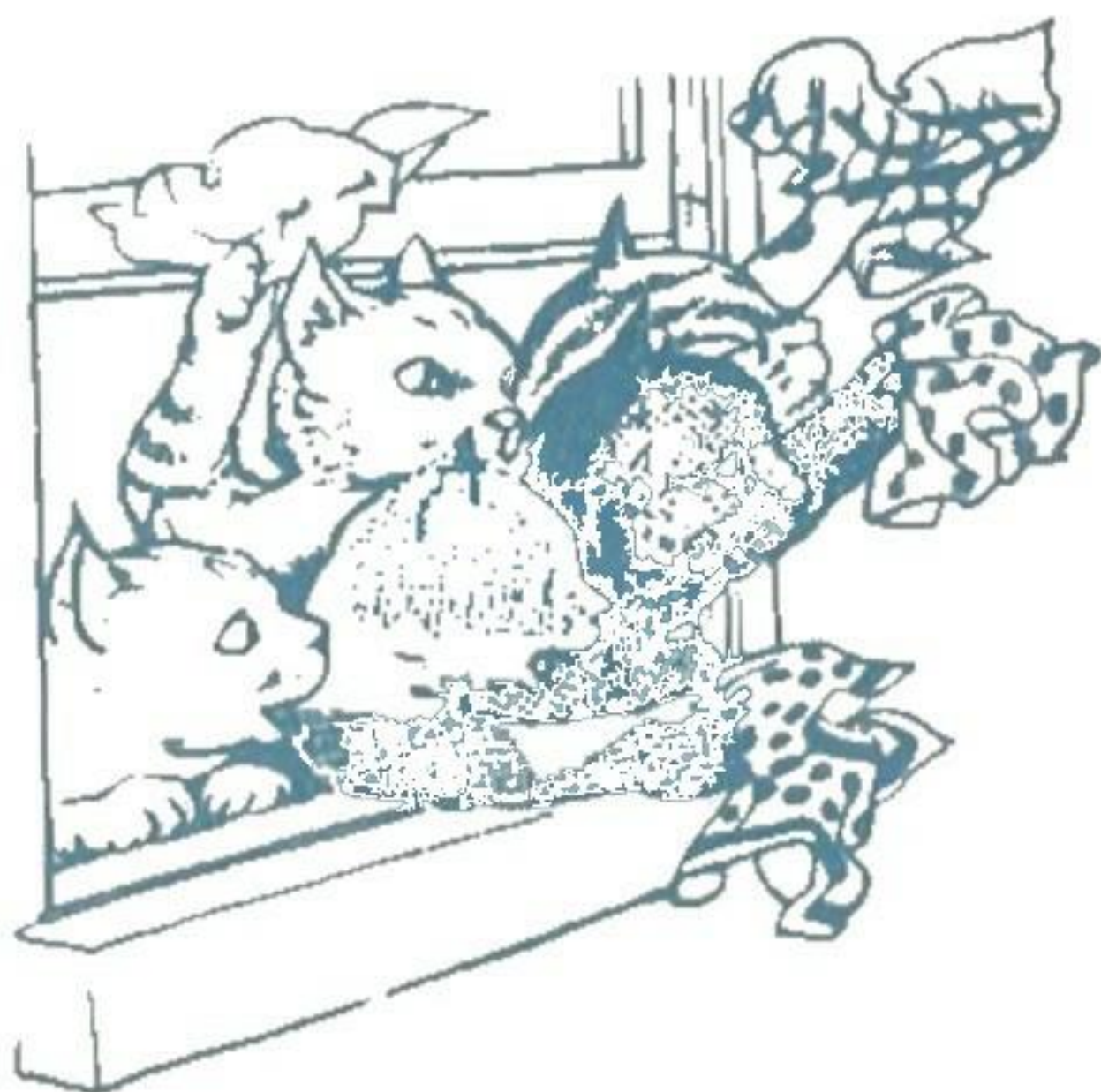




Series 401

A Ladybird Book

FIVE LITTLE KITTENS is a delightfully exciting story told in verse, which not only reveals a 'chapter of accidents' when Mummy goes out shopping, but also a happy ending when she returns . . . and the story is charmingly illustrated with 24 coloured pictures.



FIVE LITTLE KITTENS

Story and illustrations by A. J. MACGREGOR

Verses by W. PERRING

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Printed in England

Mrs. Tibbets, going shopping,
Wasn't pleased enough to purr;
" Kitties, PLEASE ! " she said quite crossly,
" How can Mummy brush her fur ? "

But the frisky little kittens
Didn't think of that at all :
Mopsie said she'd like a trumpet,
Muffie asked her for a ball.

Patch kept on and on—" An engine ! "
Ginger said, " I'd like a flag ! "
Snowball's mind was full of motors :
Mummy said : " Now, where's my bag ? "





Off she set, with her umbrella,

—For it had begun to rain—

Said : “ Now *please* be good, you kitties !

‘Till I get back home again.”





So she waited on the corner,

In the rain, to catch the bus.

Kitties waved, and "Well!" said Mopsie,

"Fancy saying that to US!"

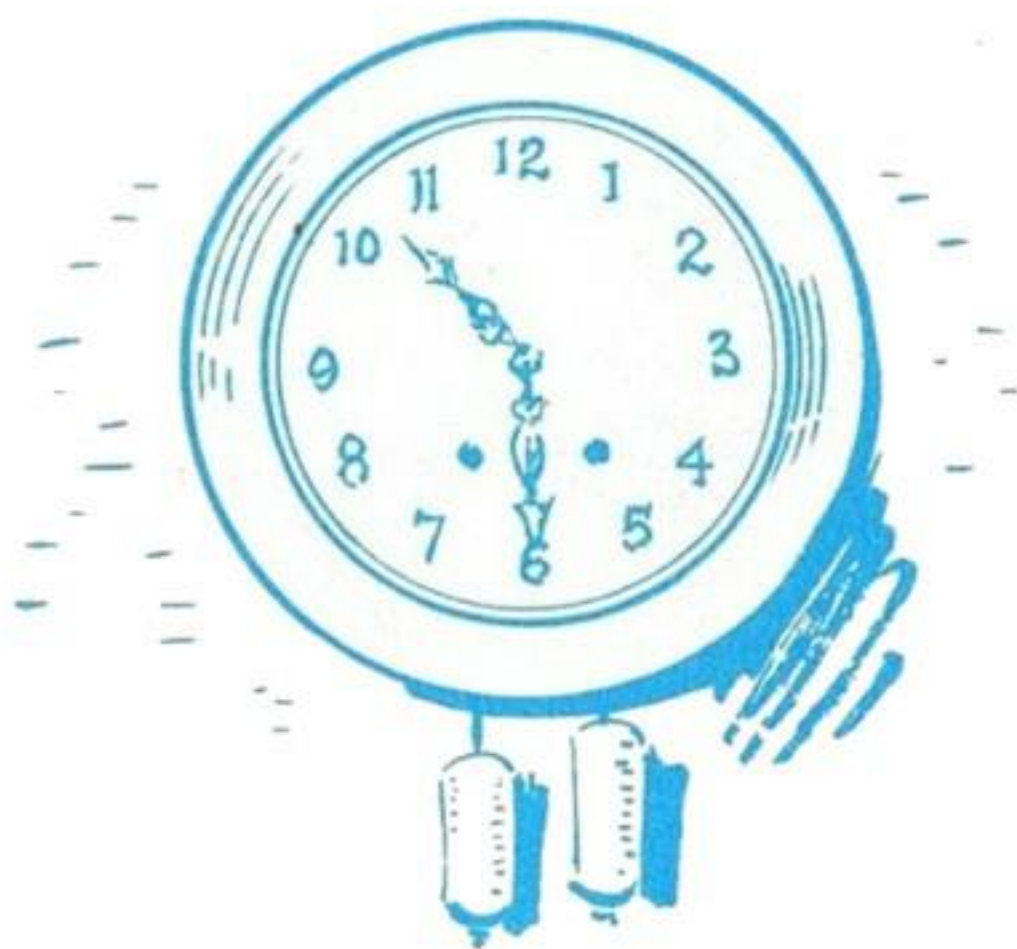




“ We will show how good we can be ;
She will not believe her eyes !
If we finish all the cleaning,
Won’t it be a grand surprise ? ”

So she put on Mummy’s apron,
Which was hanging by the sink :—
“ Everybody must do something,
/ will wash the pots . . . I think ! ”





Snowball took the brush and dustpan,
Patch said he would have the broom ;
Ginger took the mop and bucket
Up the stairs to clean their room.

Muffie said she'd clear the breakfast,
Patch said : " I'll sweep up ! " and then
Mopsie said : " Now, everybody
Must be done by half past ten ! "





Snowball, busy on the staircase,
Thought it was as good as play,
Never gave a thought to Muffie
Packing pots up on the tray.





Muffie, with her tray full-loaded,
Slowly came across the hall.
—(Careful, now!)—no thought of Snowball
Crossed her busy mind at all.





Mopsie, working in the kitchen,
Heard a sudden fearful crash,
Sounds of breaking cups and saucers
Thought : “ Oh, goodness, what a
smash ! ”





Rushed to find out what had happened,
Towards the woeful waiting scene ;
“ Oh ! ” she cried, and “ Bless my whiskers !
What an accident there’s been ! ”





Then she tripped upon her apron,
Fell full-length into the hall,
Strewed with broken cups and saucers,
Oh, great Catkins ! What a fall !





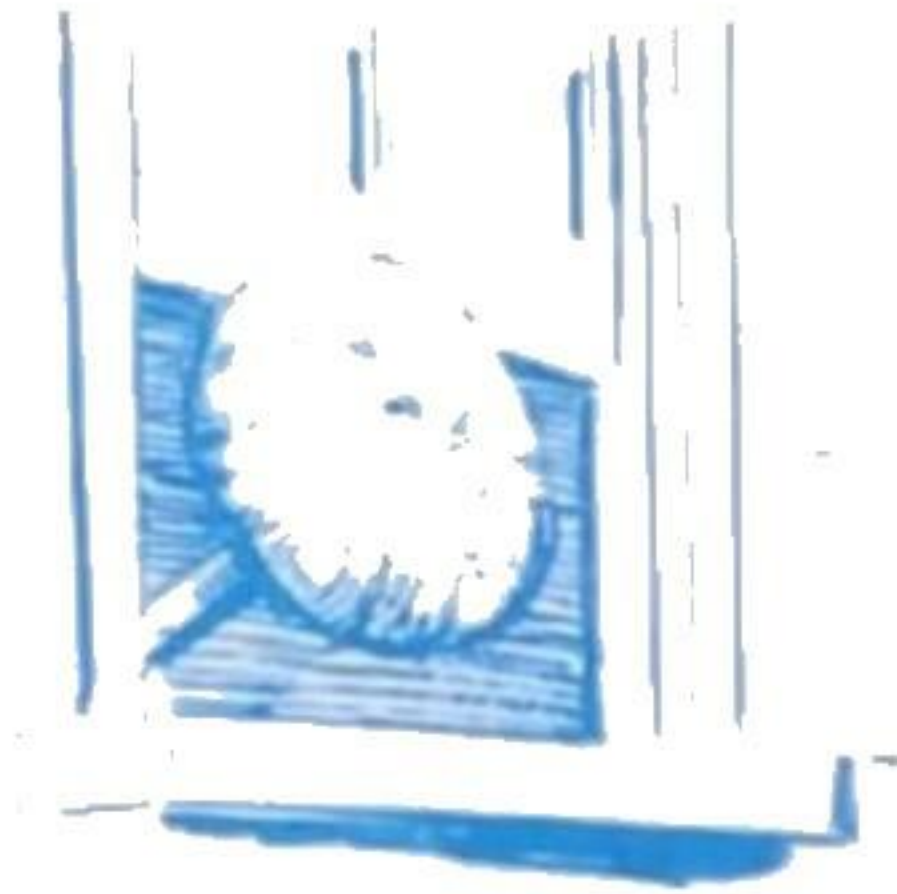
On the scene came Patch and Ginger,
Gazed upon the littered floor.
Shattered pots and scattered kittens,
Sad, and sorrowful—and sore !





Then with mop and brush and dustpan
They began to sweep it up ;
Splintered bits of plate and saucer
Chips from every broken cup !





Ginger saw his mop was dirty,

Said : " I think it needs a shake."

Poked it through the open window,

—But it was a *sad* mistake.





For it struck a large policeman

Who was passing down the street—

“Ow!” he cried, “Insulting conduct

To a policeman on his beat!”





P.C. Bobs was *very* angry,

And his face was quite severe,

As he looked in through the window,

Ginger thought, " Oh dear ! oh DEAR ! "

And he thought, " Well, now I've done it ! "

And he didn't know what to say :

Thought : " I know he'll not believe me ! "

And began to run away !





In went Bobby, through the window :
Just then Mummy came along,
Saw the feet go through with horror,
Thought, " There's something *very*
wrong ! "





Seized a foot and pulled and pulled it,

P.C. Bobs let out a roar ;

“ Out you come ! ” said Mrs. Tibbets,

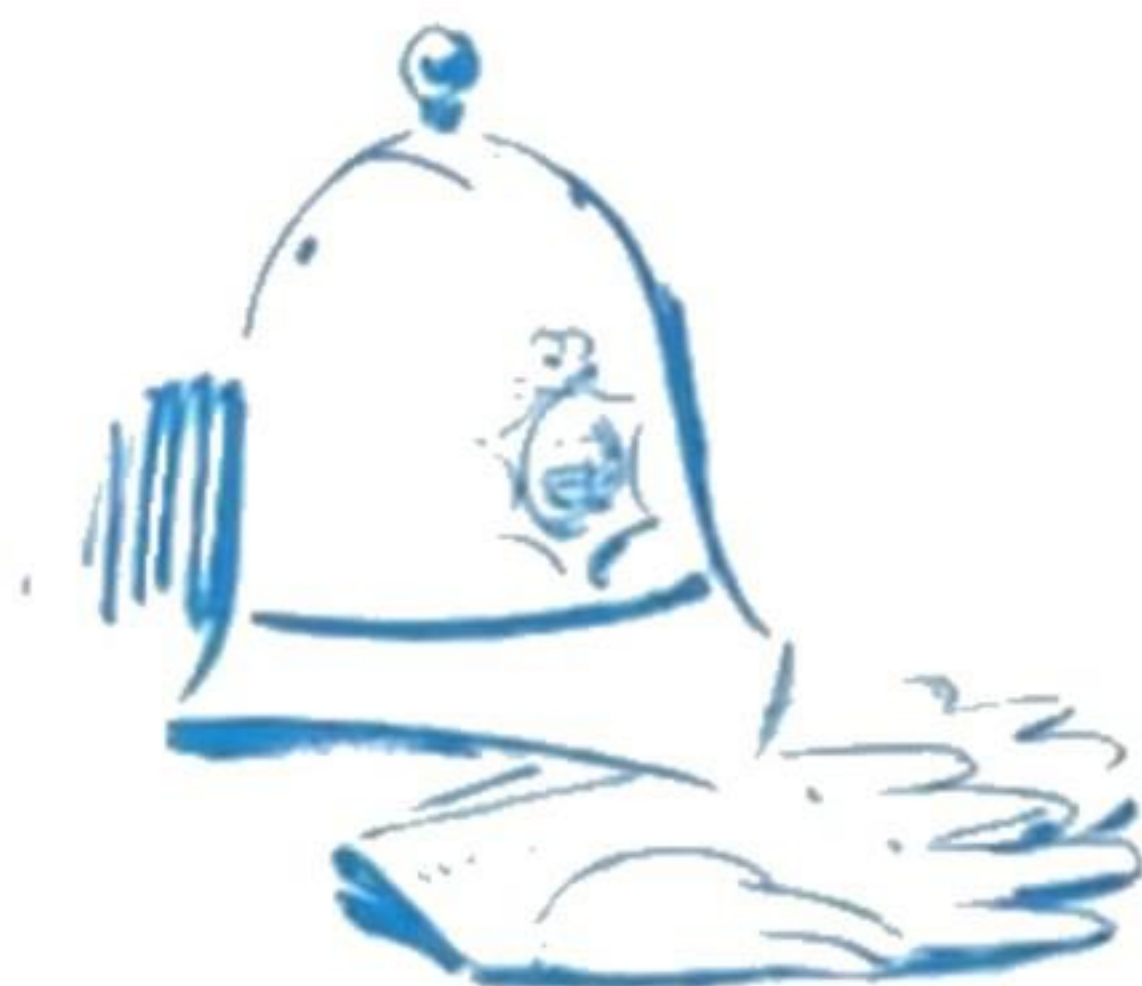
“ Honest folk go through the door ! ”





Then she saw it was a policeman,
Not a thief, that she had caught.
And was quite relieved on finding
He was not what she had thought.





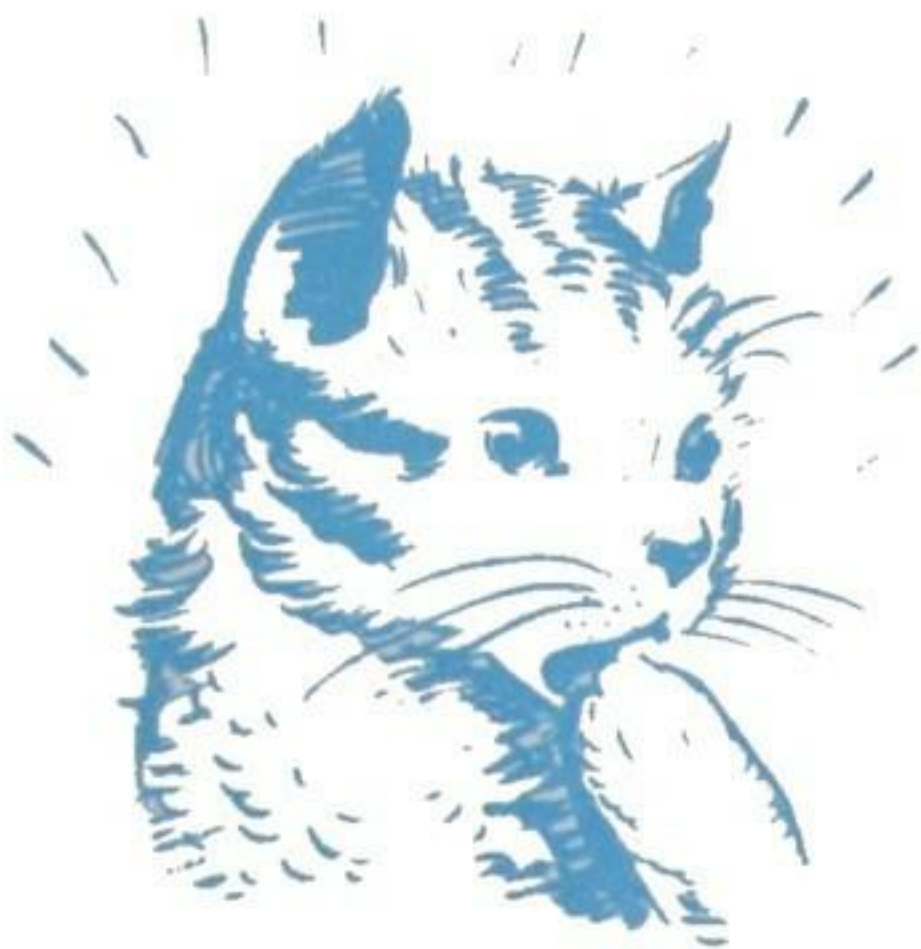
“ Why, Mr. Bobs ! ” said Mrs. Tibbets,

—For she knew him very well—

“ What is wrong ? What are you doing ? ”

What a tale he had to tell !





At the door, the kittens met them,
Solemn-eyed, a silent group :
First was Ginger, very sheepish,
Then a tearful timid troop.

“ Well, indeed ! ” said Mrs. Tibbets,
“ There’s a naughty trick to play ! ”
Ginger bit his claws, and wondered
What could *any* kitten say ?





“ Please,” he mumbled, “please, I’m sorry !

Very sorry, Mr. Bobs !

We were only helping Mummy,

Doing all the cleaning jobs !

And I didn’t mean to hit you ! ”

—Ginger very nearly cried !

“ That’s all right ! ” said Bobby, grinning,

“ But you *should* have looked outside ! ”





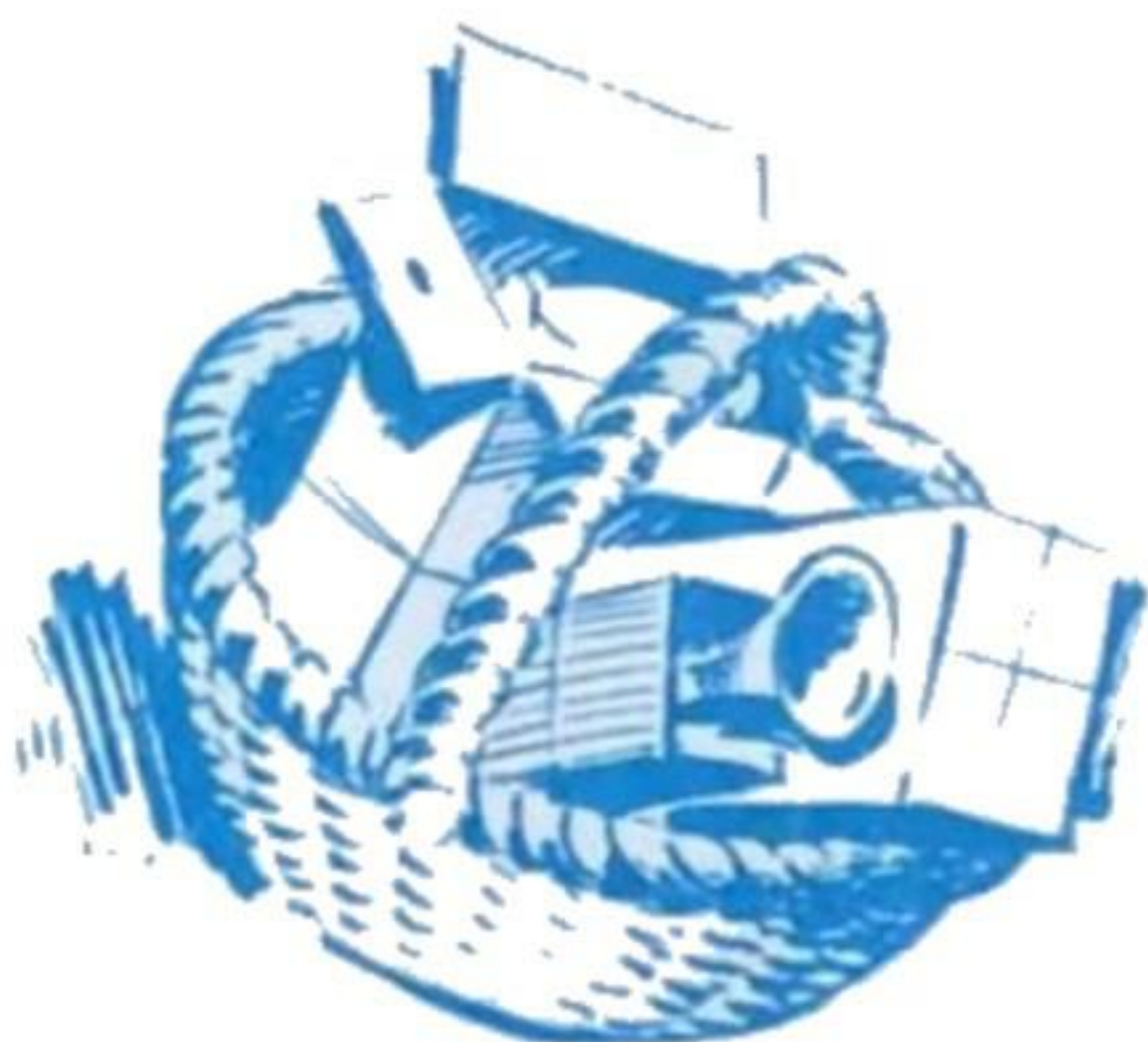
Off he went, and Mrs. Tibbetts

Went inside—Oh, what a shock,
When she saw the broken china,
What a frightened little flock!

But she wasn't *very* angry

When she saw how hard they'd tried,
Saw their sorry little faces
(Patch and Muffie even cried.)





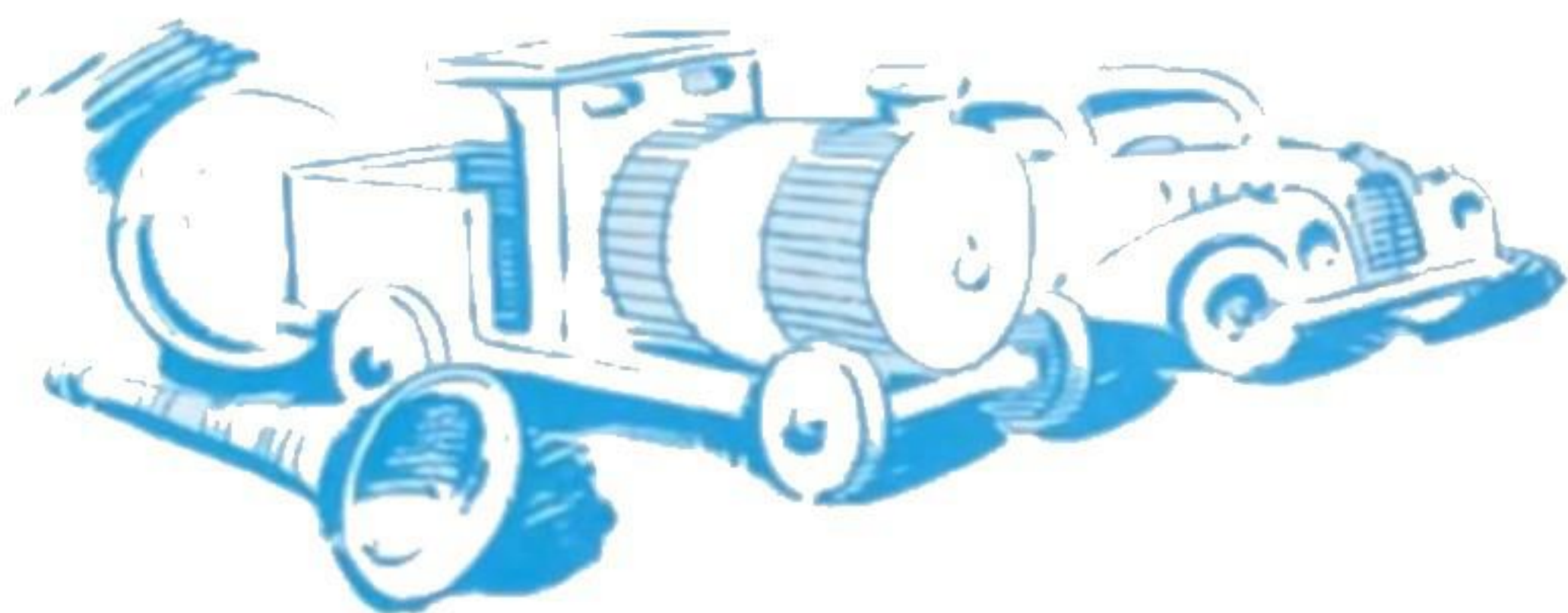
“Never mind, my dears ! ” she told them,

As they gathered round the chair.

Then she opened up her basket :

Didn't all the kittens stare !





Muffie's ball ! . . . and Mopsie's trumpet !
Snowball's motor ! . . . Ginger's flag !
Yes, and there was Patch's engine !
All were there in Mummy's bag !

How those happy kittens scampered !
. . . There is little more to tell :
All their troubles now were over,
All was well that ended well !









List of titles in Series 401

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